

**U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Royal Gorge Field Office  
3028 E. Main Street  
Canon City, CO 81212**

## **CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION**

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-200-2013-0065 CX

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER (optional):

PROJECT NAME: McCoy Gulch #1 Common Use Area

PLANNING UNIT: Collegiate/Sangre Subregion #2

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Colorado, Fremont County,  
New Mexico Principal Meridian,  
T. 47 N., R. 12 E., sec. 08, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SW $\frac{1}{4}$ . and sec. 07 NE $\frac{1}{4}$

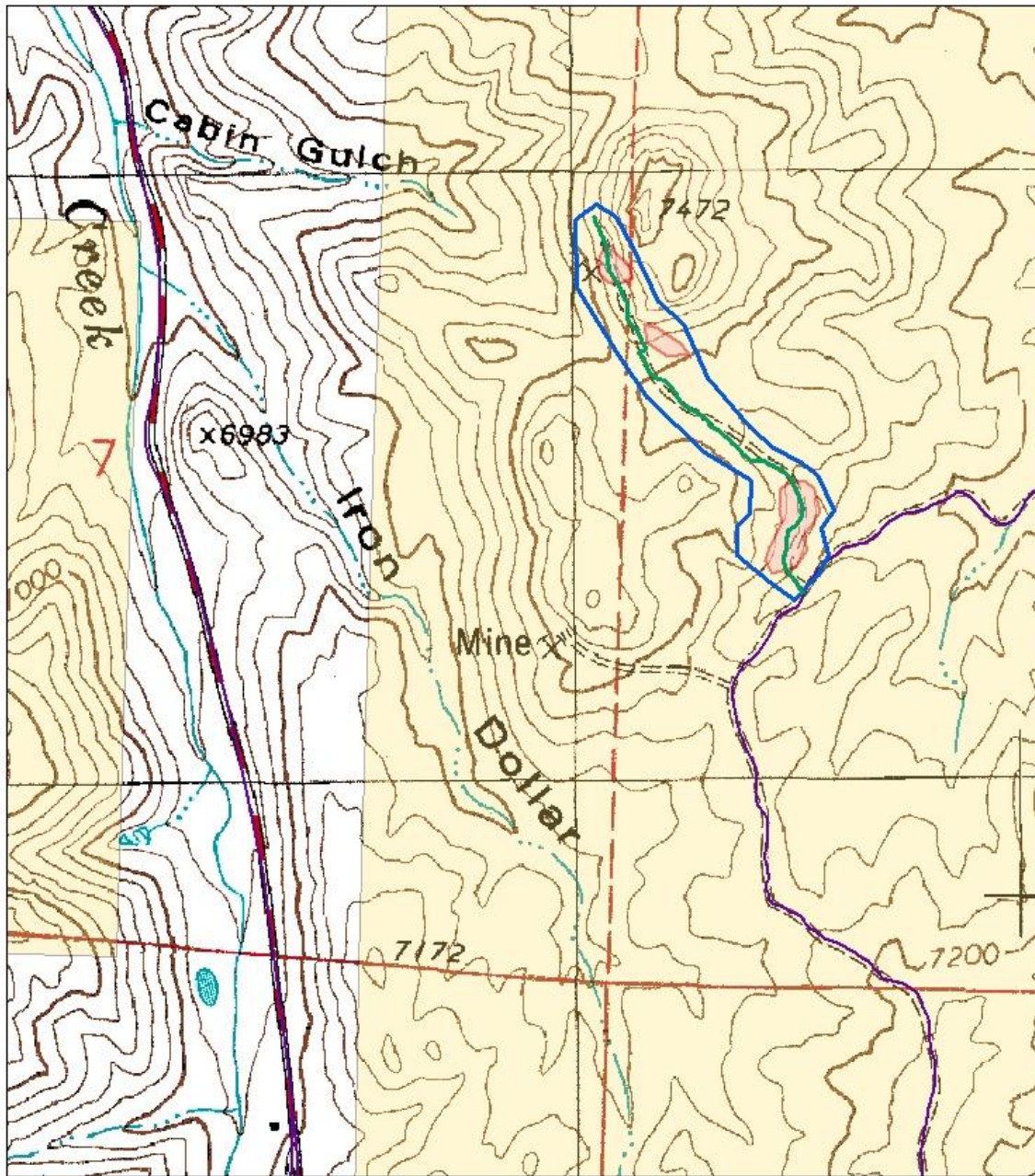
APPLICANT: BLM

### DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION

Background/Introduction: In 2007 a common use area was established in McCoy Gulch for the collection of Precambrian quartz monzonite boulders. This site encompasses 18 acres with 3 main rock collecting areas that contain large piles of pre-cut rock from a historic mining operation as shown in Figure 1. The boulders range in size from approximately 0.2 - 1 ton, requiring small equipment for removal. The size of equipment will be limited by the 0.5 mile long 4 wheel drive access road.

At the time the common use area was established, the tonnage permitted was limited to 100 tons of rock at any one time. This limit was established due to anticipated vehicle access limitations caused by road conditions. A recent request for 200-500 tons has been filed in Royal Gorge BLM office. After reviewing the file, BLM determined the material to be readily available on site, and the proposed equipment will not exceed the current disturbance level approved by the prior categorical exclusion (DOI-BLM-CO-200-2007-026 CX) for this area.

Proposed Action: The proposed action is to remove the authorized tonnage per contract for this common use area. In the future contracts will be issued on a case by case basis.



### Map of McCoy Gulch Common Use Area

DOI-BLM-CO-200-2013-065 CX  
6 PM, T17S R70W sections 7 & 8

Legend	
	CommonUseArea_Access
Name	
	MCCOYGULCH#1
	Bureau of Land Management
	Private

0 0.05 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 Miles



**NOTE TO MAP USERS**  
No warrantee is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of the data layers shown on this map. The official land records of the data providers should be checked or current status on any specific tract of land.

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW:

Name of Plan: Royal Gorge Resource Management Plan

Date Approved: 5/13/1996

Decision Number: 2-37

Decision Language: Areas will be open to mineral entry and available for mineral materials development: administered under existing regulations and standard mineral operating practices, limited by closure if necessary, and special mitigation will be developed to protect values on a case-by-case basis.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW: This proposed action is listed as a Categorical Exclusion in DOI Departmental Manual Part 516 Chapter 11.5 F. (10). None of the following exceptions in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, apply.

Exclusion Criteria	YES	NO
1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety.		X
2. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; lands with wilderness characteristics; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands; floodplains; national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.		X
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.		X
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		X
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X
7. Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.		X
8. Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.		X
9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X
10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations.		X
11. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect		X

the physical integrity of such sacred sites.		
12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species.		X

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM REVIEW			
NAME	TITLE	AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY	Initials/date
Matt Rustand	Wildlife Biologist	Terrestrial Wildlife, T&E, Migratory Birds	MR, 4/23/13
Jeff Williams	Range Management Spec.	Range, Vegetation, Farmland	JW, 4/25/13
Chris Cloninger	Range Management Spec.	Range, Vegetation, Farmland	-----
John Lamman	Range Management Spec.	Weeds	JL, 04/23/2013
Dave Gilbert	Fisheries Biologist	Aquatic Wildlife, Riparian/Wetlands	DG, 4/23/13
Stephanie Carter	Geologist	Minerals, Paleontology, Waste Hazardous or Solid	SC 5/2/13
Melissa Smeins	Geologist	Minerals, Paleontology	SC 5/2/13
John Smeins	Hydrologist	Hydrology, Water Quality/Rights, Soils	JS, 5/2/13
Ty Webb	Prescribed Fire Specialist	Air Quality	
Jeff Covington	Cadastral Surveyor	Cadastral Survey	JC, 4/23/13
Kalem Lenard	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Recreation, Wilderness, LWCs, Visual, ACEC, W&S Rivers,	KL, 4/29/2013
John Nahomenuk	River Manager	Recreation, Wilderness, LWCs, Visual, ACEC, W&S Rivers	-----
Ken Reed	Forester	Forestry	KR, 4/25/13
Martin Weimer	NEPA Coordinator	Environmental Justice, Noise, SocioEconomics	mw, 5/21/13
Monica Weimer	Archaeologist	Cultural, Native American	MMW, 4/23/13
Michael Troyer	Archaeologist	Cultural, Native American	-----
Vera Matthews	Realty Specialist	Realty	VM, 5/2/2013
Steve Craddock	Realty Specialist	Realty	-----
Steve Cunningham	Law Enforcement Ranger	Law Enforcement	
Bob Hurley	Fire Management Officer	Fire Management	BH, 4/26/2013

### REMARKS:

Cultural Resources: The quarry from which the rock will be sold is Site 5FN1870. It was recorded in 2002 [see Report CR-RG-02-66 (P)] and was determined to be ineligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Therefore, no further work is necessary.

Native American Religious Concerns: No possible traditional cultural properties were located during the cultural resources inventory (see above). There is no other known evidence that suggests the project area holds special significance for Native Americans.

Threatened and Endangered Species: There are no records of any federally listed or BLM sensitive species within or near the project area. The Proposed Action will not result in impacts to TES species.

COMPLIANCE PLAN (optional):

NAME OF PREPARER: Carissa D. Snyder

SUPERVISORY REVIEW: Jay Raiford

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: /s/ Martin Weimer

DATE: 5/21/13

DECISION AND RATIONALE: I have reviewed this Categorical Exclusion and have decided to implement the Proposed Action.

This action is listed in the Department Manual as an action that may be categorically excluded. I have evaluated the action relative to the 10 criteria listed above and have determined that it does not represent an exception and is, therefore, categorically excluded from further environmental analysis.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:                      /s/ Keith E. Berger  
Keith E. Berger, Field Manager

DATE SIGNED:    5/21/13